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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC 1. Cavalry Unit in Move Zanky and Troops in Nitra

2. Uniforms of the SNB

EVALUATION see below

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Cavalry Unit in Move Zanky.

1. Prior to November 1951, the Jezdecka Barracks in the southwestern sector of Move Zanky (P 48/Y 78) quartered a cavalry unit of about 40 troops commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Smidek (fnu). The barracks installation was situated on either side of a small street and consisted of a U-shaped building and another building with an interior yard. It was surrounded by a 2-meter high wall. Soldiers observed there were red-bordered black epaulets. Rifles were the only arms seen with the unit. (1) In the summer of 1951, the unit was loaded for shipment to Kosice (R 49/E 34) where, [REDACTED] other elements of the unit were stationed.

2. [REDACTED] a cloister about 300 meters north of the Jezdecka Barracks had to be vacated by the nuns in September 1951 and was subsequently to be occupied by a military unit.

Troops in Nitra.

3. Prior to April 1951, the Vestske Barracks opposite a large mill in the Center of Nitra (P 40/T 62) quartered components of an infantry regiment which, according to a stamp of the unit, was surnamed Tatransky. In the fall of 1951, an infantry unit, usually organized into three groups of about 80 men each, was seen marching through the town. The troops were equipped with rifles, submachine guns and light machine guns. (2) An installation about 400 meters southwest of the Vestske Barracks on the same side of the street was occupied by an air force unit.
4. After April 1951, the Zobor Barracks northeast of the town on the north side of the road to Tornos, 1.5 km east of Nitra, housed a military college. Infantry troops had been quartered there before. College students wore epaulets of various branches of service and angular grade chevron and stripes on the lower left sleeve. About 100 students were commissioned during a ceremony in the market square in September 1951.
5. Prior to November 1951, the Krakanska Barracks at the southern exit of

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Nitra on the east side of the road to Nov. Krskany was occupied by a motor transport battalion. A fuel dump was on the west side of the street. (3)

6.

Members of older classes were inducted on 1 December 1951 for a training period of undetermined length. According to rumors, they were to be assigned to construction units. (4)

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Uniforms of the SNB.

7. Prior to 1 May 1951, the SNB troops wore red service color with epaulets and caps. By order of the Ministry of State Security, the red service color was replaced by blue and the red color was henceforth worn only by the STB. (5) The Oddil Straze Ochrany Zeleznice (Railroad Police Battalions) (OSOZ) wore the uniform of railroadmen with a red brassard bearing the letters OSOZ on the left sleeve.

8. The following is a Czech press dispatch from the summer of 1951 on new uniforms for SNB troops:

"The new uniform of the SNB and the epaulets and ranks insignia are modeled on the Soviet pattern to indicate the solidarity which governs the joint effort of the Czechoslovakian and the Soviet security organs. The color of the uniform will remain khaki. SNB personnel wear a metal doghead emblem on the collar of their field blouses and overcoats which, in case of officers, has a colored background. There are four types of uniforms, namely a field uniform, a training uniform, a fatigue uniform and a dress uniform. The field uniform is worn in event of war or on special order. The training uniform is the same as the dress uniform except for some variations in the epaulets and collar of the field blouse and the overcoat of some ranks. The epaulets of the SNB are either light red or green or blue.

Enlisted Men and Noncommissioned Officers of SNB Units.

The training uniform and the dress uniform are of one cut. The training uniform is a buttoned-up field blouse with high black boots which will be worn after the stock of black lace boots with leggings have been exhausted. The upper button is worn open. The shirt is worn with a necktie with the dress uniform and with high boots or lace shoes without leggings. The epaulets of the training uniform are soft while those of the dress uniform are stiffened and tapered at the end. Rank is indicated on the epaulets which are bordered by a piping of the color of the branch of service. Some branches of service wear red-bordered green epaulets. A piping in the distinctive color of the branch of service is also worn around the cap.

Members of the Reserve Officer School.

The members of the Reserve Officer School have the same uniform as enlisted men except for the golden buttons they wear with the dress uniform. Along the piping of the epaulets is a 1-cm wide stripe which is yellow in the case of the arms and white in the case of the auxiliary troops. The rank insignia

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are yellow cross straps in the case of the arms and white cross straps in the case of the rear services.

Regular NCOs.

Regular NCOs wear the same field and training uniform as the privates and a dress uniform which is of the same design as that of officers. The epaulets of the field uniform are like those of enlisted men and of NCOs of SMC troops; the epaulets of the dress uniform are stiffened and buttoned to the blouse. Ranks are indicated by yellow cross straps in the case of the arms and white cross straps in the case of the rear services.

Senior Sergeants.

The cut and design of the uniform are the same as those of the officers except that silver buttons are worn. Breeches are worn with high black boots and trousers with black lace shoes. The epaulets of the training uniform are soft and sewed on; those of the dress uniform are stiffened, fastened with a button, colored and bordered by a 3-mm silver piping. Rank is indicated by three silver stars, 13 mm in diameter. The piping around the garrison caps and visor caps are the color of the branch of service. An officer's visor cap with colored piping and silver braid is worn with the dress uniform of the senior sergeant.

Officers.

The cut and design of the uniform of officers are similar to the other uniforms. The epaulets are stiffened and rounded at the top; they are gold for officers in the arms and silver for officers in the rear services, are bordered with a piping showing the distinctive service color, namely light red, green or blue, and have one longitudinal stripe for company grade officers and two longitudinal stripes for field grade officers. Rank is indicated by stars either 13 mm in diameter or 20 mm in diameter for company grade officers and field grade officers respectively. These stars are silver for the arms and golden for the rear services. Officers of some branches of service wear on the collar of blouse and overcoat the dog's head emblem on a green background.

Generals.

A golden lime-tree twig on a background of the color of the branch of service is worn on the collar of the blouse and overcoat, and 3-cm wide pipings are worn on the outside seams of the trouser legs. The epaulets are particularly wide, buttoned, gold in color and have a special fancy base and ornamentation. Ranks are indicated by silver stars.

Enlisted Women and NCOs of the SMC Units.

Enlisted women and NCOs of the SMC units wear a beret with an emblem, blouse which is worn open, skirt, jacket, shoes and overcoat. A training uniform may be worn with trousers and boots. Jacket and necktie are khaki. Epaulets and rank insignia are the same as those worn by the men. A garrison cap is worn with the training uniform and a beret with the dress uniform.

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Women Regular NCOs.

The training uniform is the same as that worn by the enlisted women and the dress uniform which must be worn with a skirt, is the same as that worn by the women officers.

Women Senior Sergeants.

A skirt is usually worn with the training uniform except when rough terrain and unfavorable weather necessitates the wearing of trousers which are worn with black shoes. Black boots are worn with the skirt and black shoes with the trousers.

Women Officers.

Women officers wear a beret with emblem, blouse, skirt, jacket and officer overcoat and a training uniform with high black boots. The jacket of the dress uniform is the color of clay. Epaulets are the same as those worn by officers. Metallic devices are worn only by some branches of service.

Military Ranks of SNB Troops.

NCOs: Svobodnik, desatnik, cetar, rotny, starsina, svobodnik frekventant, desatnik frekventant, cetar frekventant.

Senior Sergeant: mladsi straznistr, straznistr, stabni straznistr, vrchni straznistr.

Junior Officers: podporucik, porucik, nadporucik, kapitan.

Field grade Officers: stabni kapitan, major, podplukovnik, plukovnik.

Generals: brigadni, divisni, sborovy, armadni general. (6)

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Comments.

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- (1) The information [redacted] who indicated that a cavalry unit is stationed in Novy Zamky. [redacted]
- (2) The Tatransky Infantry regiment is the 7th Tatransky Inf Regt which was said to have been transferred from Senica to Hodonin in April 1951. The first battalion of the regiment was in Mitra. It is possible that not all of the regiment's components were transferred.
- (3) Presumably the 7th Motor Trans Bn carried in Mitra.
- (4) It is believed that the majority of the 1929 class has been inducted between 1 October 1950 and 1 October 1951 and that the remainder of this class and the 1930 class may be inducted in April 1952.
- (5) These statements supplement previous information on the service color of the SNB troops. Czechoslovakia has followed the pattern of Poland and Hungary, where the KBV and AVH respectively wear blue service color.
- (6) The detailed information supplements and confirms previous statements on the uniform of SNB troops. Green service color with the doghead emblem is worn by the PS; blue service color by the SNB; and red service color by the STB and by special units as, for instance, the guard unit at the Hradschin.

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